

Serial No.: 10/087,660

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-20 and 24-26 are now pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended herein to include the features of claim 7. Claim 7 has been canceled. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

***I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3-10, 12-17, 19 AND 20 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)***

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-17, 19 and 20 remain rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) based on *Acosta et al.* in view of *Funada et al.* Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of dependent claim 7. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite how "the active region of each pixel contains, or overlaps with, or lies adjacent to or close to, at least one of said protrusions". As is described in the present application, such feature provides the advantage of allowing the applied field to be able to grow the desired state into the active region. For nucleation, the protrusion must be close enough to the active region to experience sufficient influence from any applied field. (See, e.g., Spec., p. 17, Ins. 15-23).

In previously rejecting claim 7, the Examiner asserts that the aforementioned features are taught in *Acosta et al.* at Column 14, ¶183 and in Fig. 10. Applicants, however, must respectfully disagree for at least the following reasons.

For the Examiner's convenience, applicants reproduce below Figs. 9 and 10 of *Acosta et al.*

Serial No.: 10/087,660

*Acosta et al.* describes with respect to Fig. 10 that "Figure 10 illustrates how the use of reactive mesogen layers can be applied to a SBD device ... [I]n Figure 10 the reactive mesogen layers 8, 8' are provided in regions of the liquid crystal cell that correspond to the pixel regions, whereas in the device of Figure 9 the reactive mesogen layers 8, 8' are provided in the inter-pixel portions". (Emphasis added; See Col. 14, ¶83).

*Acosta et al.* fails to teach or suggest that the active region of each pixel includes, or overlaps with, or is adjacent or close to, at least one of the protrusions. See, for example, Figs. 9 and 10 (reproduced above) where it is clear that the purported protrusions 8, 8' are either in the pixel region or outside.

*Funada et al.* discloses a nematic liquid crystal material sandwiched between two opposing parallel plates at least one which is transparent. The two parallel plates are respectively coated with transparent electrode films having parallel micro-groove structures. (See, Abstract). On the other hand, *Funada et al.* fails to teach or suggest protrusions that overlap with the active region of the pixel.

Thus, *Funada et al.* does not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies in *Acosta et al.* Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom is respectfully requested.

## **II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 11 AND 18 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)**

Claims 11 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) based on *Acosta et al.* in view of *Funada et al.*, and further in view of *Ulrich et al.* Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claims 11 and 18 each depend from claim 1 either directly or indirectly, and can be distinguished over *Acosta et al.* and *Funada et al.* for at least the same reasons. Moreover, *Ulrich et al.* does not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies in *Acosta et al.* and *Funada et al.* Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Serial No.: 10/087,660

### III. CONCLUSION

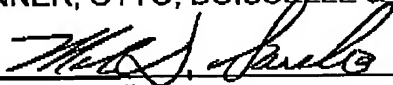
Accordingly, all claims are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

  
Mark D. Saralino  
Reg. No. 34,243

DATE: March 1, 2005

The Keith Building  
1621 Euclid Avenue  
Nineteenth Floor  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
(216) 621-1113

B:\GENIYAMA\Yamap804\yamap804.am3.wpd